

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 10-12, 15-17, and 20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 11, and 16 are independent. In light of the remarks contained herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ejima et al.* (USP 5,805,219) in view of *Matsuo* (USP 5,179,505); and rejected claims 10, 15, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ejima et al.* in view of *Matsuo* and further in view of *Kannan et al.* (USP 5,423,045). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) -
*Ejima et al./Matsuo***

In support of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1, the Examiner admits that *Ejima et al.* fails to teach or suggest a controller for performing suspension of the power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is opened while the master switch is on, and for performing resumption of the power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is closed during the suspension of the power supply. The Examiner relies on the teachings of *Matsuo* to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Ejima et al.* by asserting that

Matsuo discloses operating a master switch upon the detection results of a card detecting switch wherein if the card is detected then the power is on and if the card is not detected then the power is off, citing to col. 4, lines 53-63. Applicant respectfully disagrees that the teachings of Matsuo cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Ejima et al.*

The present invention as set forth in claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an electronic camera comprising a controller for performing suspension of a power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is opened **while the master switch is on**. Assuming, *arguendo*, Matsuo discloses operating a master switch upon the detection results of a card detecting switch wherein if the card is detected then the power is on and if the card is not detected then the power is off, this teaching does not cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Ejima et al.* As the present invention set forth in claim 1 provides for performing suspension of a power supply while the master switch is on, providing a reference that teaches operating the master switch upon the results of a card detecting switch is not sufficient to teach or suggest the controller of the present invention. As the teachings of Matsuo, as asserted by the Examiner, fail to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Ejima et al.*, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has failed to provide references that teach or suggest

the claimed invention, either alone or in combination, assuming these references are combinable, which Applicant does not admit. As such, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

Additionally, the Examiner asserts in support of the rejection of claim 1 that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have added *Matsuo's* master switch and control method to *Ejima et al.'s* invention in order to suspend power upon detecting the opening of the lid and resume power upon detecting the closing of the lid where a memory card is present and thus eliminate power consumption when taking a picture is impossible. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's motivation to combine the references and submits that the teachings of the references as suggested by the Examiner is improper.

It is respectfully submitted that the disclosure of *Ejima et al.* is directed to an apparatus capable of safely recording information when removing a recording medium. *Ejima et al.* provides for an eject mechanism to enable the ejection of the recording medium. The apparatus further provides a detection device for detecting the ejecting movement of the recording medium. In an attempt to ensure information is safely stored while the memory cartridge is removed during a recording operation, a power source

pin is provided that is longer than other pins connected between the memory cartridge and the apparatus. This is to ensure that power is supplied to the memory cartridge as long as possible to ensure that the information is recorded to the memory card safely. Specifically, *Ejima et al.* provides for the power source pin 40a contacting the memory cartridge 2 for the longest time of all the pins. Therefore, the possibility for destroying data by power source loss during recording of the recording not complete flag is eliminated (col. 6, line 66 - col. 7, line 2).

In contrast, the Examiner is asserting that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of *Matsuo* with the control method of *Ejima et al.* to suspend power upon detecting the opening of the lid. However, if the apparatus of *Ejima et al.* suspends power upon detecting of the opening of the lid, this would surely result in data loss as the power would be cut as information is being recorded to the memory cartridge. As such, *Ejima et al.* teaches away from suspending power upon the detecting of the opening of the lid as, in order to ensure the elimination of data loss, power must be provided to the memory cartridge as long as possible. As such, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the teachings of *Matsuo* with the teachings of *Ejima et al.* as suggested by the Examiner. As such, it is respectfully submitted that, as there is no motivation to

combine the references of the teachings of *Matsuo* with the teachings of *Ejima et al.*, the Examiner has failed to provide proper motivation for combining the references and, thus, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 11, and 16 to more appropriately recite the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

Amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an electronic camera comprising a master switch for turning on and off the power supply part wherein the master switch is a switch to be operated manually. In support of the Examiner's rejection, the Examiner relies on the teachings of *Matsuo* to teach or suggest a master switch. However, it is respectfully submitted that *Matsuo's* apparatus does not have a master switch to be manually operated. The apparatus of *Matsuo* is constructed such that loading and unloading of memory card 3 relates to the on/off of the power source.

Additionally, amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, wherein when the detector detects that the lid is opened while the master switch is turned on, the controller suspends the power supply from the power supply part to at least the external storage medium while maintaining the power supply from the power supply part to the

detector. It is respectfully submitted that the power control of the present invention is not taught or suggested by *Ejima et al.* or *Matsuo*, either alone or in combination, assuming these references are combinable, which Applicant does not admit. *not taught*

In the apparatus of *Matsuo*, a memory card must be unloaded in order to turn off the power source as *Matsuo's* apparatus does not have a master switch to be manually operated. In other words, the memory card must always be inserted or pulled out in order to turn on or off the power, resulting in a complicated operation.

Additionally, in the disclosure of *Matsuo*, a problem may occur where data being recorded in the memory card may be destroyed if the memory card is accidentally or mistakenly pulled out to turn off the power source while recording the data onto the memory card.

In contrast, the electronic camera of the present invention can turn on and off the power source by operating the master switch even if the external storage medium is loaded, and can also load and unload the external storage medium while the master switch is on. In order to perform such loading or unloading of the external storage medium, a lid is opened and the power source to the external storage medium is turned off beforehand. As a result, neither the external storage medium nor the recorded data are destroyed.

In addition to the above arguments, the Examiner indicates that *Matsuo* teaches that the power supply is suspended when the memory card is unloaded in order to save electricity. In contrast, the electronic camera of the present invention provides for suspending the power supply at least to the external storage medium when the lid is open both to save electricity and to prevent destruction of the external storage medium and the data. Typically, loading and unloading of the external storage medium are performed while the master switch is turned off. However, loading and unloading of the external storage medium in the present invention can be safely performed while the master switch is on and when the lid is closed. The electronic camera can be returned to the original state, where the electronic camera can be used for taking images, without operating the master switch again.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the references as cited by the Examiner fail to teach or suggest all of the claimed elements. As such, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 2 and 10 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1 at least based upon their dependency on claim 1.

It is further respectfully submitted that claim 11 contains elements similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1

and, thus, claim 11, together with claims dependent thereon, are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

It is further respectfully submitted that claim 16 contains elements similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1 and, thus, claim 16, together with claims dependent thereon, are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Applicant respectfully petitions for a one (1) month extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a). A check in the amount of \$110.00 in payment of the extension of time fee is attached.

Appl. No. 09/316,033


If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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